While waiting for own dredgers, tenders were floated for chartering of dredgers in National Waterway No. 2. But this did not materialize on account of no response from private sector due to reasons well-known. Alternate method of river conservancy namely bandalling was resorted to, to keep the navigational route operational. The route from Dhubri to Negmati for a distance of 630 Kms. was maintained with 2-meter depth by this method.

Publicity of Government views

*47. SHRI RAMA MUNI RFDDY S1R1GIREEDY:

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATIONAND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in regard to publicity of their views through audio-visual media;

(b) whether it is a fact that owing to lack of sponsorship, D.D. News Channel, would be shut down; and

(c) if so, how the views of Government would be publicised to fulfil social responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ).(a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry of the Government for dissemination of information of Government's policies and programmes and for spreading awareness through various means of communications, including audio-visual media. This role is performed through its various Media Units, as well as by Prasar Bharati, which is an autonomous statutory Corporation, whose mandate is to conduct public broadcasting service to inform, educate and entertain the public.

(b) and (c) As a part of its restructuring exercise, Prasar Bharati has closed down DD News and Current Affairs Channel due to its high cost and low visibility. DD-National Channel, which has an extensive reach, now carries more programmes on news and current affairs to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

Implementation of SC Order relating to illegal sex determination tests

48. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the Supreme Court's orders to confiscate ultrasound machines used to carry out sex determination tests not even a single machine has been impounded in the Capital;